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Labour Market Information Monthly

June 2010 Edition *Issue 6 Volume 7*

Population Projections: Canada, the Provinces and Territories (2009 to 2036) *

All growth scenarios considered, Canada's population could exceed 40 million by 2036. The ageing of the population is projected to accelerate rapidly, as the entire baby boom generation turns 65 during this period. The number of senior citizens could more than double, outnumbering children for the first time.

From 2009 to 2036, Canada's population could grow from 33.7 million to between 40.1 million under the low growth scenario and 47.7 million under the high growth scenario.

Results at the provincial and territorial levels vary according to the scenario considered, mainly due to differences in interprovincial migration patterns. Overall, regardless of the scenario, growth would be higher than the national average in Ontario and British Columbia. The population of every province and territory would increase during this time, except in some scenarios in the case of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This Month

- Population Projections (2009 to 2036)
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

Canada's population would age rapidly until 2031, by which time the entire baby boom generation would have turned 65. It would continue ageing after 2031, but at a less rapid pace. By 2036, the number of seniors is projected to reach between 9.9 million and 10.9 million, more than double the level of 4.7 million in 2009. They would surpass the number of children aged 14 or under for the first time ever between 2015 and 2021, depending on the scenario. By 2036, the median age of the population would range between 42 and 45 years, compared with the current median of 39.5.

Contributors to demographic growth

Canada's population growth depends on two factors: natural increase (births minus deaths), and net international migration (immigrants minus emigrants). The number of deaths is projected to increase during the entire period between 2009 and 2036, as the baby boom generation gets older. Under the medium-growth scenario, natural increase would remain positive until 2036, although the levels of births and deaths would get closer over time.

Regardless of the scenario, immigration levels would represent a larger share of the projected population growth at the national level. Because large numbers of new immigrants consist of younger individuals in the child-bearing age, sustained levels of immigration would also have a positive impact on the number of births. According to the medium-growth scenario, Canada would receive roughly 333,600 immigrants a year by 2036, compared with 252,500 in 2010.

Age structure of the population

Projections show that seniors would account for between 23% and 25% of the total population by 2036, nearly double the 13.9% in 2009. Higher immigration levels would do little to change the forthcoming ageing of the Canadian population. At the same time, the proportion of the working-age population aged 15 to 64 would decline steadily from about 70% to about 60%.

* Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, May 26, 2010.

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Consequently, ratios of children and seniors to the working-age population would increase in the future, particularly the latter. The number of children aged 14 or under for every 100 people in the working-age population would increase from 24 in 2009 to 26 by 2036, according to the medium-growth scenario. The increase would be larger for seniors aged 65 and over, where by 2036 their numbers according to this scenario would rise from 20 to 39 for every 100 people in the working-age population. Corresponding to this change, the ratio of working-age population to seniors would decrease from five to one in 2009 to just over two and half to one by 2036.

Projections also show Canada would have far more very elderly people. In 2009, there were roughly 1.3 million people aged 80 or over. According to the medium-growth scenario, this could increase to 3.3 million by 2036. The number of centenarians is projected to triple or quadruple, depending on the scenario. There were about 6,000 centenarians in 2009.

Provincial and territorial projections

Ontario and British Columbia are the only provinces in which average annual growth would exceed the growth rate for Canada as a whole between 2009 and 2036, according to all scenarios.

Ontario's population would increase from nearly 13.1 million in 2009 to between 16.1 million and 19.4 million in 2036, depending on the scenario. Under the medium-growth scenario, it would account for 40.5% of the national population in 2036, up from 38.7% in 2009.

The population of British Columbia would increase from nearly 4.5 million in 2009 to between 5.8 million and 7.1 million in 2036. Under the medium-growth scenario, its share of Canada's total population would rise from 13.2% to 14.5%.

Quebec would remain the second most populous province. Its population would rise from 7.8 million in 2009 to between 8.6 million and 10.0 million in 2036.

Under the lowest-growth scenario, Newfoundland and Labrador's population would decline from 508,900 in 2009 to 483,400 in 2036. Under the highest-growth scenario, it would rise to 544,500.

Age structure in the provinces and territories

Provincially, population ageing would differ from region to region. In almost every scenario, the four Atlantic provinces would continue to have the highest median ages by 2036. Northwest Territories and Nunavut would have the youngest.

Between those two extremes, the median age would be lower than the national level in three provinces: Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

In the medium-growth scenario, Manitoba would be the youngest province by 2036, and Newfoundland and Labrador the oldest.

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Observed (2009) and projected (2036) population according to three scenarios, Canada, provinces and territories				
	2009	Scenario (2036)		
	Thousands (000)			
		Low-growth	Medium-growth	High-growth
Canada	**33,739.9**	**40,142.4**	**43,821.7**	**47,686.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	508.9	483.4	513.7	544.5
Prince Edward Island	141.0	160.9	174.3	188.1
Nova Scotia	938.2	987.0	1,054.6	1,123.5
New Brunswick	749.5	772.3	822.2	873.5
Quebec	7,828.9	8,578.4	9,272.4	10,001.0
Ontario	13,069.2	16,135.9	17,746.8	19,440.0
Manitoba	1,222.0	1,434.3	1,579.7	1,735.7
Saskatchewan	1,030.1	1,120.0	1,207.0	1,298.2
Alberta	3,687.7	4,563.5	4,963.7	5,383.2
British Columbia	4,455.2	5,785.8	6,355.8	6,955.6
Yukon	33.7	36.0	38.8	41.8
Northwest Territories	43.4	48.6	52.7	56.9
Nunavut	32.2	36.3	40.0	44.2

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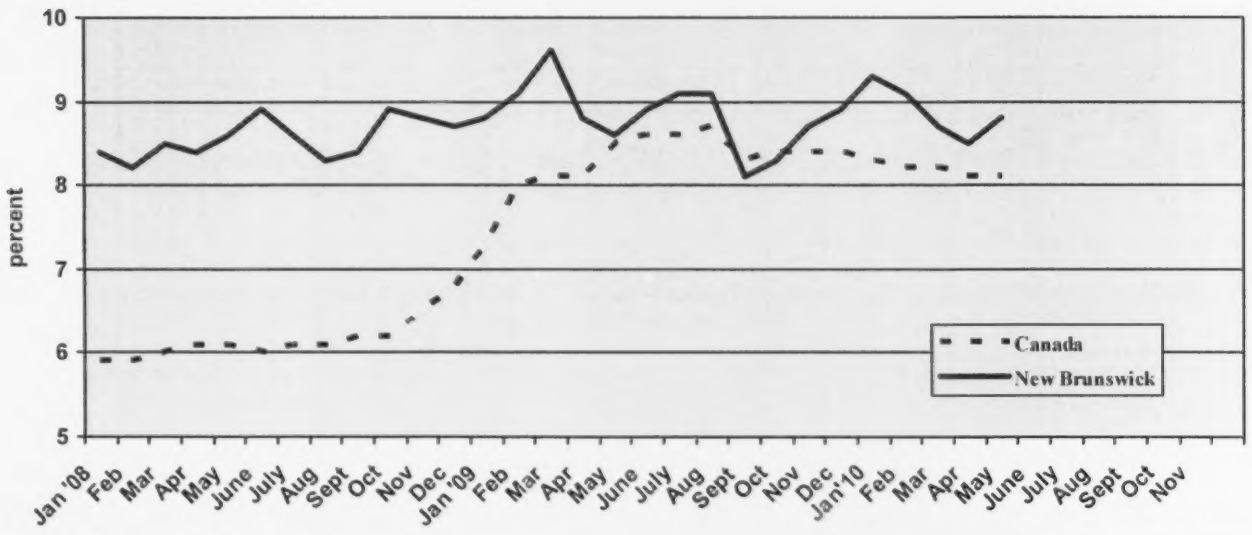
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	May '10	April '10	May '09
Labour Force	401,700	**401,500**	401,500	400,200
Employed	366,000	**366,000**	367,300	365,900
Unemployed	35,700	**35,500**	34,200	34,400
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	**8.8%**	8.5%	8.6%
Participation Rate	64.5%	**64.4%**	64.4%	64.4%
Employment Rate	58.7%	**58.7%**	58.9%	58.9%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In May, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.1%, unchanged over last month but 0.4 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 8.8% was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.2 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it also stood at 8.6%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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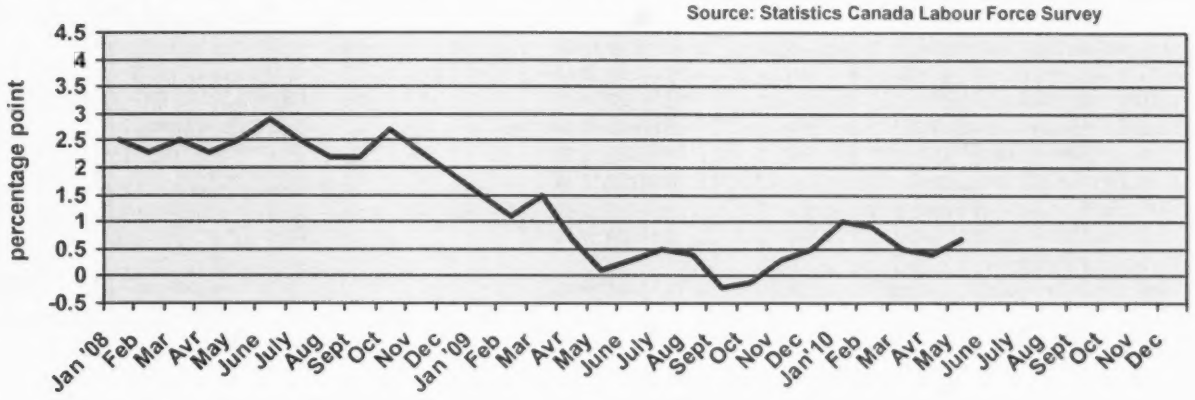
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.7 of a percentage point in May.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

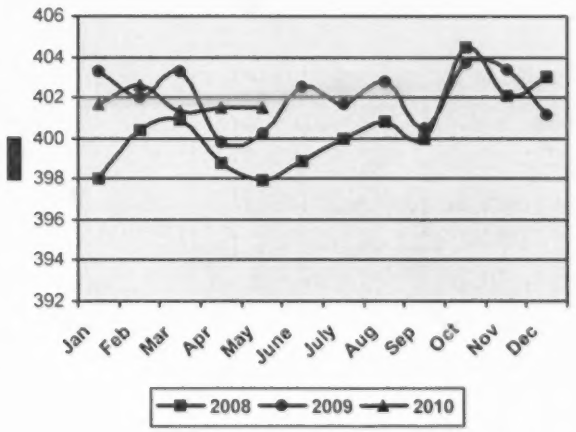
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 401,500 in May. This was unchanged over last month, but an increase of 1,300 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



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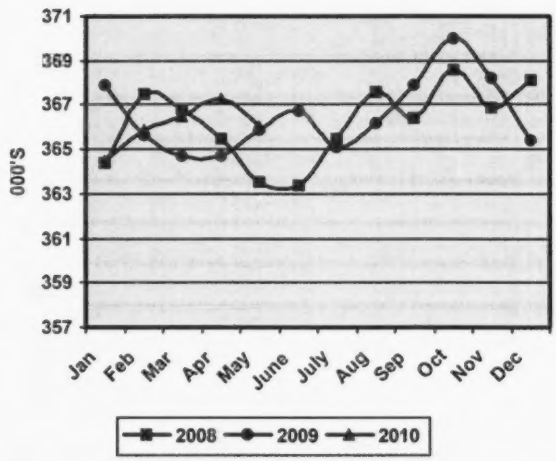
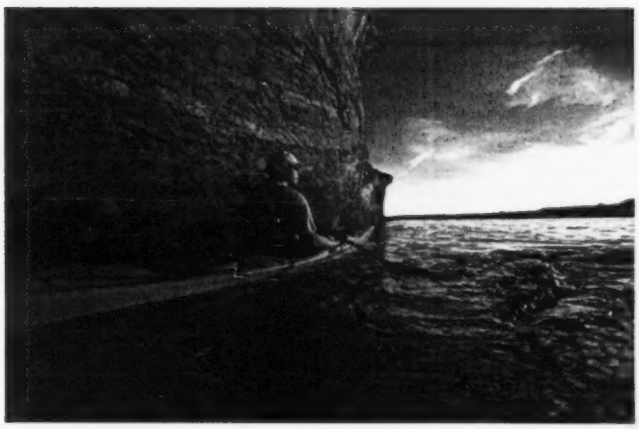
EMPLOYMENT

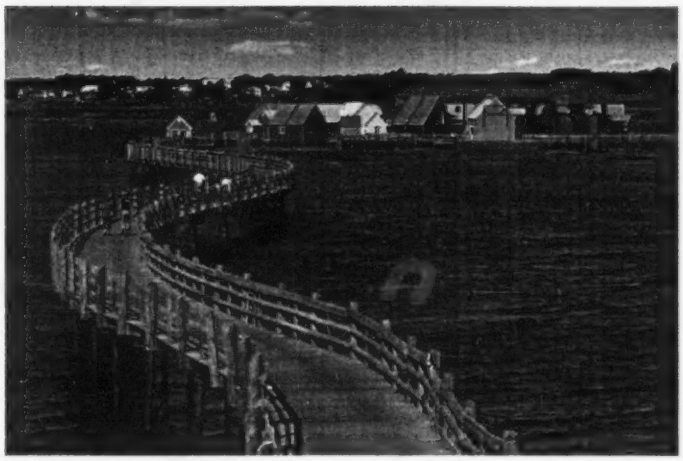
There were 366,000 people working in May. This was 1,300 less than last month but 100 more when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

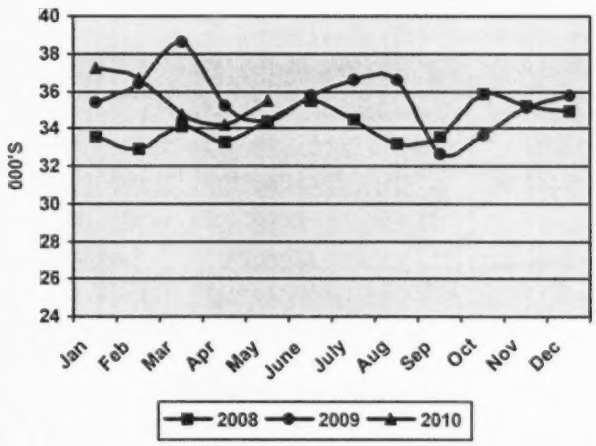




UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 35,500 people unemployed and seeking work in May. This is 1,300 more people than what was recorded last month and is 1,100 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



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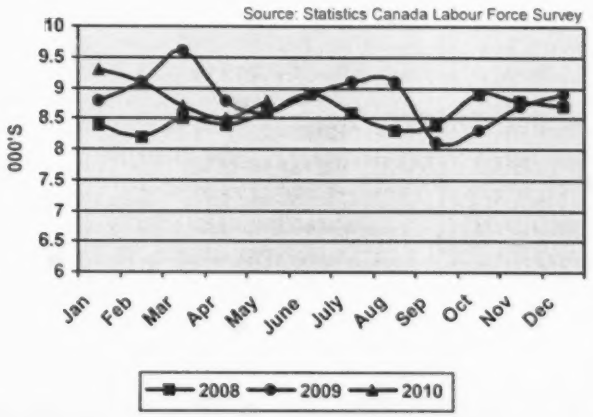
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 8.8% in May was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year .

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



May'10	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	72,300	113,600	94,300	74,800	43,200
Employment	59,200	105,500	85,400	69,700	39,000
Unemployment	13,200	8,000	8,900	5,100	4,200
Unemployment Rate	18.3%	7.0%	9.4%	6.8%	9.7%
Participation Rate	53.7%	67.0%	65.3%	70.0%	63.4%

Economic Regions	YTD		May'10		May'09	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	60,000	16.5%	59,200	18.3%	62,100	16.9%
Southeast	102,600	7.3%	105,500	7.0%	103,500	8.5%
Southwest	84,900	9.0%	85,400	9.4%	90,200	7.0%
Central	69,400	7.3%	69,700	6.8%	63,900	9.6%
Northwest	37,800	10.3%	39,000	9.7%	38,200	12.0%

On a year-over-year basis (May 2010 compared to May 2009), employment increased in the Central (+5,800) ; Southeast (+2,000) and Northwest (+800) economic regions while employment decreased in the Southwest (-4,800)and Northeast (-2,900) regions.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Information, culture and recreation (14.9%) - In May of 2010 there were approximately 13,100 people employed in this sector. There are now only 2,000 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in September of 1999 (the record high for this sector). This is the twelfth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 12 of those months (but given twelve of them have happened in the last 12 months suggests this sector is on a positive trajectory). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 19.5% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).

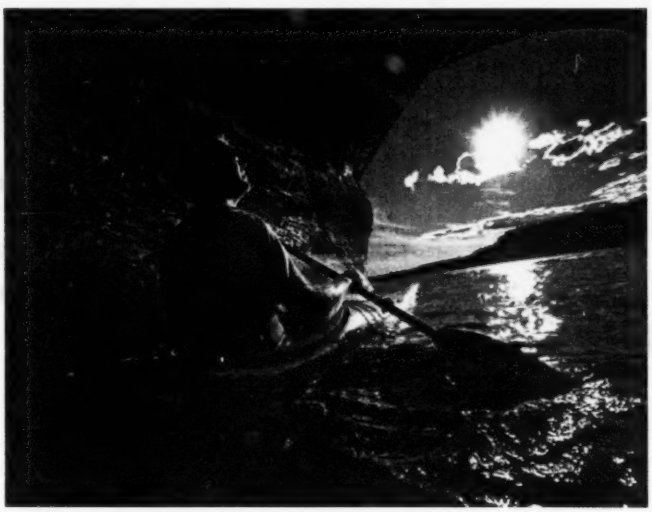
Construction (13.7%) - In May of 2010 there were approximately 29,900 people employed in this sector (a record high for this sector). This is the sixteenth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 18 of those months (but given sixteen of them have happened in the last 16 months suggests this sector is doing well). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 7.4% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).

Transportation and Warehousing (8.1%) – In May of 2010 there were approximately 20,100 people employed in this sector. There are 2,700 fewer people employed in this sector than in June of 2005 (the record high for this sector). This is only the fourth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 12 of those months (7 happening in 2008). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 6.2% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).

Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) increase in employment.

Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:

Manufacturing (-15.1%) – In May of 2010 there were approximately 29,900 people employed in this sector. There are 13,700 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in January of 2004 (the record high for this sector). This is the first month in the last six where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 9 of those months. Even though this sector lost ground this month, so far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is still 0.7% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).



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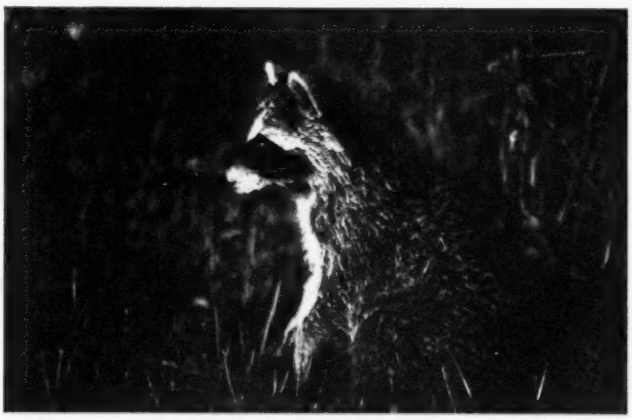
THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

Business, Building and Other Support Services (-13.3%) – In May of 2010 there were approximately 17,600 people employed in this sector. There are 5,400 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in January of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the sixth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 9 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 7.7% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-12.3%) – In May of 2010 there were approximately 15,700 people employed in this sector. There are 3,000 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in March of 2008 (the record high for this sector). This is the eighth consecutive month that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 9 times. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 13.5% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (five months into the year).

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment



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